History of Electricity
in Wasatch County

He then recorded in his notes the surveying work done through June 23, 1888 in which he adjusted the city to true measurements.

By 1889 Heber was ready for organization as a township, and Henry Aird was appointed as the first town board president. He served until 1894 when Thomas Huskinson Giles was elected and served two years. James W. Clyde was elected in 1896 and served until the election of Edward D. Clyde in 1898. Robert Duke followed in 1900 and served until 1902 when articles of incorporation were drawn up and the town became an officially incorporated city.

James W. Clyde was elected as the city's first mayor, with membership of the new city council form of government consisting of Joseph Hatch, E. J. Cummings, David C. Hanks, George A. Wootton and Joseph A. Murdock.

An early action by the mayor and city council consisted of calling for bids to run the sprinkling wagon through the city on dusty summer days. Bidders and their prices per day included Ed Tilt, \$2.80; Bert Tilt, \$2.50; J. C. Murdock, \$2.40; Harmon Cummings, \$2.50; Walter Wickham, \$2.25 and John Carlile, \$2.48.

The council acted on the "lowest qualified bid" and hired Mr. Wickham to sprinkle the streets.

In the election of November, 1903, candidates aligned themselves with the Democratic and Republican political parties, and the Democrats won a sweeping community victory.

The new city officials were Joseph A. Rasband, mayor: John T. Giles, four-year councilman; Joseph R. Murdock, A. B. Murdock, Orson Ryan and F. L. Clegg, two-year councilmen; David W. Hicken, marshal; LaVina Murdock, recorder; George Barzee, treasurer and Livingston Montgomery, justice of the peace.

In May of 1905 the city officials promoted a bond election to raise \$40,000 for the purpose of installing a water system. By 1905 the city council was able to pass the following ordinance:

"That a water works system be constructed to supply its inhabitants with water and shall be known and designated as Heber City Water Works. The said system shall be the property of said city."

Early the following spring, work was underway to complete the system. The main source of supply was the Broadhead Spring, east of the city.

Heber's third mayor was elected in the fall of 1905 and served during 1906 and 1907. He was Joseph R. Murdock. Serving with him on the city council were David Fisher, John T. Giles, Robert Duke, Joseph E. D. Tomlinson and John E. Moulton. Joseph A. Murdock was recorder with Moroni Moulton, treasurer; David W. Hicken, marshal and Fred L. Clegg, justice of the peace.

A significant cultural step was taken by Mayor Murdock in Novem-

ber, 1907 when \$500 was appropriated for the establishment of a public library and community reading room.

The city council considered several possible locations for the library, including rooms above Jeff's store, the old Turner Hall and store, Buell's Hall and upstairs rooms in the new Heber Mercantile building. After considerable discussion the council moved that the two rooms above the Mercantile Company be rented for \$10 per month. This library was later consolidated with county facilities.

By January, 1908, Mayor James W. Clyde, the city's fourth chief executive, had been elected and sworn into office. Elected to serve with him as city councilmen were John E. Moulton, four-year term and David Fisher, John W. Crook, William T. Wootton and Robert Duke, two-year terms. Joseph A. Murdock continued as recorder, with Royal J. Murdock as treasurer and Andrew Lindsay as marshal.

During Mayor Clyde's term the need for electric power was being felt in the community. Other locations in the state had obtained electricity, and many Heber residents desired the convenience and service of this new power source.

It seemed natural that the city government should take the lead in building power facilities, and on September 20, 1908 members of the Heber Commercial Club proposed to the council that the city construct a power plant on property north of Heber. They estimated that the project would cost about \$50,000.

Mayor Clyde and the council received the proposition favorably and began immediate action to select a suitable site. Three possible locations were selected, and finally ten acres owned by the Hatch family north of town were purchased for \$2,000 and the project was on its way.

At a council meeting on October 14, 1908, the communities of Midway and Charleston were asked to join in building the proposed power plant, with Midway to own one-fourth interest and Charleston one-eighth. Wallsburg was also invited to participate to the extent of its needs but they secured their power from another source. At this same meeting a bond election to finance the construction was fixed for December 29, 1908. The citizens were to be asked to approve bonding for \$32,000.

In the meantime, the council hired George A. Wootton on November 16, 1908, to be general supervisor of the plant at a salary of \$100 per month, with Mr. Wootton to furnish his own horse and buggy and feed for the horse.

The December bond election was nearly unanimous, with only eight of the 120 voters who went to the polls casting negative ballots. The new plant was assured, and the council selected the name "Heber Light and Power Plant" as the official name of the new venture. Also named was an executive committee to manage the plant. Chosen for the committee were Mayor Clyde, Councilmen Moulton and Duke of Heber, Attewall Wootton Sr. of Midway and John O. Edwards of Charleston.



The Heber Light and Power Plant erected in 1909.

Work proceeded and by March, 1909, the committee announced they were ready to install the power producing equipment. A Mr. Lund of Salt Lake City was hired on March 29, 1909 to install the equipment at a salary of \$125 per month during the time of installation. Laborers who were employed to work on the building were paid 25 cents an hour or 50 cents an hour if they furnished a team.

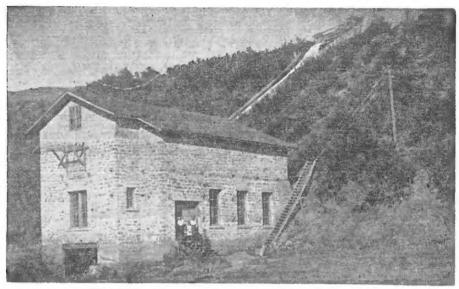
On May 10, 1909, E. Parley Cliff was appointed city electrician and wiring inspector to supervise the installation of wiring in homes throughout the community.

By fall of 1909 the residents of Heber, Midway and Charleston were enjoying electrical power, a factor which may have influenced many to re-elect Mayor Clyde in the November, 1909 election. On November 15, 1909, the council passed a resolution that any resident desiring a street light in front of his home could install the light and receive free electric power from the city.

On February 10, 1910, the executive committee of the plant reported that the total cost of constructing and equipping the plant was \$66,789.66. Heber was granted three-fourths ownership, with Midway and Charleston

owning one-eighth shares each.

The plant served the communities and their entire needs adequately until 1946 when the Heber City Council and town boards of Midway and Charleston met to discuss an additional hydroelectric plant on Snake Creek. Joseph Hylton was serving as mayor at the time. The project was approved and work was completed early in September, 1949, at a cost of \$161,387.00. Lorenzo A. Wootton and Hugo Price directed the



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construction and engineering work, and Charles Bonner was the first plant operator. Mr. Bonner served at the plant until 1960 when Glen Horrocks succeeded him.

Through the years the Heber Light and Power plant has been a very successful venture, in spite of outside commercial competition. Total

assets in 1958 were in excess of \$500,000.

When Mayor Clyde began his second term in 1910 he had councilmen John E. Moulton, finishing a four-year term, David Fisher, Robert Duke, Richard Jones and J. W. Crook, two-year councilmen; Joseph A. Murdock, recorder and J. R. Price, treasurer.

Popularity continued with Mayor Clyde in the November, 1911 election, and he was re-elected for an unprecedented third term. John H. Hicken was elected as four-year councilman and John E. Moulton, Joseph A. Rasband, E. J. Duke and David Fisher won two-year council posts. Joseph A. Murdock continued as recorder with Lucinda Buys as treasurer and Fred L. Clegg as justice of the peace.

With the coming of Spring in 1913 Mayor Clyde and the council proposed that sidewalks between 4th North and 4th South Streets and along Center Street be paved. They also took steps to grade and gravel two blocks of roadway on Main Street during the summer.

John E. Moulton, who had served several previous terms on the council, was elected mayor in the November, 1913 election. Serving with him were John H. Hicken, hold-over councilman, Joseph A. Rasband, John H. Murdock and William Coleman, two-year councilmen; Joseph A. Murdock, recorder and Lucinda Buys, treasurer.

The Spring of 1914 brought a petition before the council signed by members of the Parents' Class in the Heber Third Ward requesting that a time be set apart as "Gravel Day." The Council apparently felt the need for such a project because it was moved and carried that three such days be set apart to give citizens an ample opportunity to bring gravel to their areas without getting in each other's way.

David A. Broadbent and Lavina Murdock also represented the same class of the other two Heber wards in presenting suggestions for the bet-

terment and beautification of the city cemetery.

On February 3, 1915, the community was saddened by the death of Mayor Moulton. William Coleman was appointed acting head of the council and worked with merchants in the community to close their places of business as a tribute to the mayor on the day of the funeral services.

The council met on March 6, 1915 to consider candidates to replace the late Mayor Moulton, and after considerable discussion nominated Edward D. Clyde who was selected by unanimous vote.

An entry from the council meeting minutes of March 27, 1915, is indicative of the changing times. Originally the city had placed electric utility poles in the center of city streets. Now they had been petitioned by members of the Automobile Club to move the poles to the sides of the